

### Amendment to the Claims

1.-15. (Canceled)

16. (New) A plasmid comprising a gene encoding *dep*, a 4,5-dihydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one (DHCP) efflux protein of SEQ ID No. 3, said plasmid further comprising a disrupted *pur* gene, wherein said plasmid expresses multiple copies of said genes in bacteria cells transformed with said plasmid.

17. (New) A plasmid comprising a gene encoding *dep*, a 4,5-dihydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one (DHCP) efflux protein of SEQ ID No. 3, said plasmid further comprising a disrupted *ydhC* gene, wherein said plasmid expresses multiple copies of said genes in bacteria cells transformed with said plasmid.

18. (New) A plasmid comprising a gene encoding *dep*, a 4,5-dihydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one (DHCP) efflux protein of SEQ ID No. 3, said plasmid further comprising a disrupted *ydhB* gene, wherein said plasmid expresses multiple copies of said genes in bacteria cells transformed with said plasmid.

19. (New) A plasmid comprising a gene encoding *dep*, a 4,5-dihydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one (DHCP) efflux protein of SEQ ID No. 3, said plasmid being independent of *pur*, *ydhC* and *ydhB*, and wherein said plasmid expresses multiple copies of said gene encoding *dep* in bacteria cells transformed with said plasmid.

20. (New) A plasmid designated pSP007 having a gene encoding *dep*, a 4,5-dihydroxy-2-cyclopenten-1-one (DHCP) efflux protein of SEQ ID No. 3, wherein said plasmid expresses multiple copies of said gene encoding *dep* in bacteria cells transformed with said plasmid.